

# **Finding of No Significant Impact**

## **Construction and Operation of Armed Forces Reserve Center and Organizational Maintenance Shop**

### **Hector International Airport, Fargo, North Dakota**

## **Introduction**

The 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts associated with construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) and Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS). This action will transfer U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) units currently at the David F. Johnson Memorial USAR Center in Fargo, North Dakota to a new AFRC that would be constructed on the North Dakota (ND) Air National Guard (ANG) facility at Hector International Airport (IAP) in Fargo, Cass County, North Dakota. These actions reflect the recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission that were approved by the President on September 23, 2005. On November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law without alteration. The law requires that the recommendations of the Commission be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended. Per BRAC 2005, the 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command (RRC) will be realigned into the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC).

## **1. Description of the Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative) and Alternatives**

**Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative).** The proposed action is to implement the Commission's recommendations as mandated by the BRAC legislation. The Commission's recommendations are to:

*"Close 96<sup>th</sup> RRC David Johnson USARC in Fargo, ND and relocate into a new Reserve Center on Hector Field Air National Guard Base."*

To comply with these recommendations, USAR is realigning units from the David F. Johnson Memorial USAR Center in Fargo to a new AFRC and OMS that would be constructed on approximately 10 acres in the northwest portion of the ND ANG facility at Hector IAP. Therefore, the proposed action (preferred alternative) is to construct an AFRC, including support infrastructure and parking, for the USAR on the site. The new AFRC would provide a 100-member training facility for the units realigned as directed by BRAC. Access to the new AFRC would be from the main gate of the ND ANG facility located off of North University Drive. No increase in USAR personnel would result from this action.

The AFRC would provide administrative offices, assembly area, arms vault, supply, classroom, learning center, library, communications, a security training area, locker rooms, latrines, kitchen space, and a recruiting area. Additional support facilities and activities would include military equipment parking (MEP) and privately owned vehicle (POV) parking, site preparation, paving, fencing, security lighting, site signage, storm drainage, sidewalks, exterior fire protection, and access drives. No fixed wing or rotary wing aircraft would be assigned to the AFRC.

## 2. Environmental Analysis

Based on the analysis contained in the EA, it has been determined that the known and potential impacts of the preferred alternative on air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, utilities, and hazardous and toxic materials would not be significant. The preferred alternative would have no adverse effects on land use, visual resources, biological resources, cultural resources, or transportation. A minor benefit to the local economy during construction would create a beneficial effect on socioeconomics. Additional details on the environmental analysis conducted are found in the EA for the Construction and Operation of an Armed Forces Reserve Center and Organizational Maintenance Shop at Hector Field International Airport in Fargo, North Dakota (CH2M HILL, 2009).

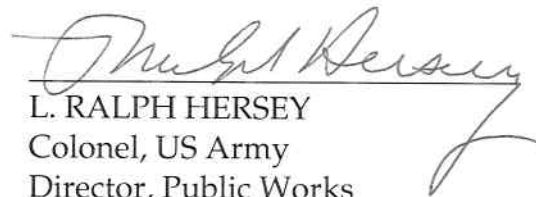
## 3. Public Review and Comment

Copies of this EA and Finding of No Significant Impact have been distributed to regulatory agencies and made available for public review and comment for 30 days. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided concurrence that the project as described would have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. The State Historical Society of North Dakota also concurred with the Army's determination of no effect to historic properties. These letters are included in Appendix A of the EA. No issues were identified by tribal parties consulted and no public comments were received.

## 4. Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the information presented in the final EA, it has been concluded that no significant environmental or socioeconomic impacts would result from the preferred alternative (proposed action) or alternative action. The requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations have been met. Therefore, it is not necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to address the proposed action, and a Finding of No Significant Impact has been issued.

7 JUL 2009  
Date

  
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